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Rural District of South Westmorland

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1960



KENDAL
TITUS WILSON & SON, LTD.

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Kendal 1296.

Stricklandgate House,
P.O. Box 18,
Kendal.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council
of South Westmorland.*

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report upon the health of the Rural District for the year 1960.

I wish to acknowledge the help and ready co-operation of my colleague the County Medical Officer of Health, and also the assistance afforded to me by the local general medical practitioners.

I am indebted also to the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff for the spirit of teamwork which exists in my department, and for the fund of local knowledge which they have laid at my disposal.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK T. MADGE,

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area of the Rural District in acres	151,007
Population (Registrar-General's mid year estimate)	18,310
Inhabited houses	6,122
Rateable Value	£219,302
Product of a Penny Rate	£1,003
Rate in the Pound levied	18/od.
of which the County Rate was	14/3d.

The Rural District of South Westmorland is a pleasant rolling countryside which rises from sea level in the south to nearly a thousand feet in the north. The shore-line extends for about 14 miles along the estuary of the River Kent, flat and marshy in the north, but with picturesque wooded slopes on the south.

The District is divided into three main valley areas by the two ridges of Scout Scar and Killington, which run north and south across the centre of the southern portion of Westmorland. On the west lie the Winster and Lyth valleys, in the middle lies the valley of the Kent, and on the extreme east lies the Lune Valley.

The dividing ridge of Scout Scar is sharp and barren, but the larger watershed which runs from Hutton Roof in the south to Whinfell in the north is rolling upland more suitable for agriculture. In the extreme north of the District is the high barrier of the central massif of Westmorland. These geographical features determine the natural lines of communication and therefore the spread of infectious disease.

The geology of the Rural District is sharply divided by the great fault which runs from Kendal in the north to Burton in the south-west and Kirkby Lonsdale in the south-east after branching near Crooklands. The country to the north-east of this fault consists of Kirkby Moor Flags in the Upper Ludlow Series of the Silurian System, with appreciable deposits of glacial drift. The rocks to the west of the fault are carboniferous limestones, with some of the Yoredale Series in the extreme south. The valleys contain some alluvial deposit and some glacial drift. These geological characteristics are of great significance in the supervision of water supplies, sewerage and occupational disease as well as affecting the economics of the District.

The climate is mild and equable, though invigorating on the uplands. The valleys are sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds, and their southern aspects provide full access to sunshine. Temperature gradient inversions are occasional in spring and autumn but are soon dispelled in the mornings. The rainfall varies between 40 and 50 inches a year and light falls of snow may be expected for one or two weeks in the late winter.

The District is mainly agricultural in character and many of the

small local industries and crafts are ancillary to agriculture. There are also the following industries which provide much employment and bring prosperity to the villages.

Paper Mills.	Wood Turning.
Woollen Mills.	Stone Quarries.
Mat Making.	Tarmacadam Manufacture.
Comb Making.	Cardboard Box Manufactory.
Milk Depots.	Condensed Milk Factory.
Furniture Factory.	Diatomaceous Earthworks.

In addition to these local industries the District receives seasonal tourist business at Arnside, Kirkby Lonsdale, and those northerly parts of the area which lie within the Lake District. The variety of these opportunities for local employment has stopped the drift from the countryside and has kept South Westmorland happily free from unemployment which is a most important factor in the maintenance of public health.

STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office.	Whole or Part Time.	Other Offices.
Madge, F. T.	M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	Part	M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland
Ball, G. H.	M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.	Chief Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager	Part	Building Surveyor
Aldersley, W. H.	M.A.P.H.I.	Deputy Public Health Inspector	Whole	
Shepherd, D.	F.A.P.H.I., F.F.S.	Additional Public Health Inspector	Part	Public Health Inspector to Windermere U.D.C.
Moss, H.	—	Clerk	Whole	—
Beveridge, K. A.	—	Clerk	Whole	—
Machell, B. M.	—	Clerk to Medical Officer of Health	Part	Clerk to M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland

Staff Changes.

There were no staff changes during the year.

COMMITTEES.

The Minister of Health requires me to include a list of your Council's committees which are concerned with matters of public health.

The Public Health Committee deal with the principal matters, but there are other aspects of public health importance which are dealt with by the Water and Housing Committees.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following extracts are made from information supplied by the Registrar-General with figures for 1959 for comparison.

Area of the District in acres 151,007

	1959	1960
Estimated civilian population (mid year) ..	18,220	18,310
Live Births. Legitimate— males	149	139
females	121	143
Illegitimate— males	12	8
females	13	8
Total	295	298
Crude Rate per 1,000 population	16.2	16.2
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	17.1	17.6
Birth Rate for England and Wales	16.5	17.1
Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000 population	1.3	.87
Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000 live births.	64.7	53.6
Still Births. Legitimate— males	—	3
females	1	—
Illegitimate— males	—	—
females	—	—
Total	1	3
Total (live and still) births ..	296	301
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	3.3	10
Rate for England and Wales ..	22.0	19.7

	1959	1960
Deaths, males	112	108
females	123	92
Total	235	200
Crude Rate per 1,000 population ..	12.8	10.9
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	11.1	9.4
Rate for England and Wales ..	11.6	11.5
Infantile Deaths (under 1 year)		
Total deaths under 1 year.. ..	3.	3
Rate per 1,000 live births	10.16	10.06
Rate for England and Wales ..	22.0	21.7
Legitimate	3	3
Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	11.1	10.6
Illegitimate	—	—
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	—
Neonatal Deaths (under 4 weeks)		
Total neonatal deaths ..	2	3
Rate per 1,000 live births ..	6.7	10.06
Rate for England and Wales ..	15.8	15.6
Early Neonatal Deaths (under 1 week):		
Total early neonatal deaths ..	2	3
Rate per 1,000 live births ..	6.7	10.06
Perinatal Mortality Rate:		
Stillbirths and deaths under		
1 week.. .. .	3	6
Rate per 1,000 total (live and		
still) births	13.5	20
Maternal Mortality:		
Total Deaths	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and		
still) births	—	—
Rate for England and Wales ..	0.38	0.39

Deaths from certain causes :—						1959.	1960.
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	43	32
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil

The main causes of death were:—

Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	63
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	41
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	32

COMMENTARY ON THE VITAL STATISTICS.

The 1951 Census revealed a population of 17,776 persons which was 228 more than in the same area in 1931, and reflects a very stable total population, although it masks the effect of migration. The census showed that only about 55 per cent of the people in Westmorland were born in the County. The greatest invasion, particularly in South Westmorland, was from Lancashire, some 14 per cent overall.

A proper perspective cannot be obtained by considering merely one year's changes. It is the general trend of population which is important for the planning of your future housing, water and sewerage requirements, and for the broader issues of the economic prosperity of your District.

Before the second World War you were a declining community, not only showing less births than deaths, but also drifting steadily each year out of the countryside. For the past decade you have maintained your population by your own reproduction and I hope this encouraging sign will continue.

I believe that the setting up of a better basis for agriculture in the national economy has checked the drift from the countryside, and has encouraged your young folk to renew their faith in country life by settling down and undertaking the responsibility of a family.

The preliminary figures for the 1961 Census suggest that the tide of migration has turned during the past ten years. Your population has gone up 6.5 per cent, and the number of private households has risen 11.6 per cent during that decade. We shall have to await the final statistics before we can see the full pattern of the changes.

The 1951 Census also showed that there was a daily tidal flow of 2,195 people in and out of your District, made up of 1,349 residents who go elsewhere to work, and 846 outsiders who come into South Westmorland by day. The figures illustrate to some extent your pro-

vision of dormitories for Kendal's over-spill. 900 of your inhabitants go every day to work in the Borough, and another 302 commute into Lancashire. On the other hand Kendal sends 570 of its residents out into South Westmorland to work. The remainder of the immigrant commuters come from Lancashire and other foreign parts.

This daily interchange of talent probably reflects the rigidity of housing policy, and no doubt offers a glimpse of broader horizons and a wider range for the choice of marriage partners. Such population movements are of very significant importance in maintaining the public health. It will be interesting to see if the 1961 Census figures reveal that a different pattern has developed during the nineteen-fifties. I suspect it will.

Birth Rate.

Your birth rate fluctuates around the national average, with a tendency to rise.

Still Birth Rate.

This showed a slight rise.

Death Rate.

Your corrected death rate was below the national average. The proportion of old people in your community is likely to increase markedly during the next decade.

Infantile and Neo-natal Deaths.

Infantile deaths are deaths in children under the age of one year, and included in this figure are the neo-natal deaths which are deaths in children under the age of one month. This distinction helps to separate the deaths which are due to factors connected with pregnancy, child-birth, and abnormal development, which are more likely to cause death within the first month, from factors connected with infant management, which are likely to cause death between one month and one year.

In 1910 your Infantile Mortality rate was 120, during the first decade of this century it varied between 60 and 70, during the 'twenties it fell to between 60 and 50, and during the last few years it has been between 30 and 10. Your figures are too scanty to carry any great statistical significance, but as the trend runs parallel to that for England and Wales I consider that they reflect a very satisfactory improvement in child-care by the local doctors, nurses, and above all, by the young mothers in their homes. I hope that this happy state will continue.

The neo-natal deaths contain what we might call the hard core of "unavoidable" infant deaths. Many of these in the past have been due to prematurity, abnormality, or the result of difficult child-birth. There are some signs of hope that science may be able to prevent certain types of developmental abnormalities, and it is clear that blood tests and the increased availability of obstetrical specialists will help to reduce the number of neo-natal deaths.

An advisory obstetric committee has been set up in Westmorland to co-ordinate the functions of the three divisions of the health service involved in midwifery, and to investigate the causes of still births and infant deaths.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no maternal deaths.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 143-170.

National Health Service Act, 1946. Part III.

The general incidence of illness can be assessed by the weekly number of new claims for sickness benefit at our local National Insurance offices. A logarithmic graph of those figures shows a regular seasonal pattern over the years, and any variations are usually worth investigating.

The first half of 1960 was fairly free of notifiable diseases. Whooping cough commenced about midsummer and was troublesome up and down the Lune Valley for the rest of the year. Measles started during the autumn in the villages around Kendal and worked up into what was destined to be quite a big epidemic after the end of the year. One sharp outbreak of food poisoning occurred in an institution in October.

It is pleasing to record that the notification of infectious disease has much improved in recent years, and I am very grateful to my colleagues in general practice for their prompt help in this respect. I look upon the control of notifiable diseases as one of the most important duties of our department. Patterns of thought change from time to time on these subjects, but the notifications provide the factual basis for controlling the spread of infections.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE.

	Total	Ages										Admitted to Hospital	Deaths	
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-			45-	65-
Scarlet Fever	5	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough ..	45	1	2	6	5	4	21	5	-	1	-	-	-	-
Measles	43	4	4	8	4	1	17	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Food Poisoning ..	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	12	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	116	5	6	14	9	6	40	11	9	13	1	1	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis is the most important communicable disease of our time. Its prevention is primarily dependent upon social and economic factors in the general community, and secondarily upon the management of the established case. Your Council's functions are threefold to investigate the source of infection, to prevent the spread of infection and to remove conditions favourable to infection.

The number of tuberculosis patients at the year end were:—

Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	65
Non-Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	11
						—
						76
						—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respira- tory		Non-res- piratory		Respira- tory		Non-res- piratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ..	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15 ..	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35 ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	5	1	2	2	—	—	—	—

Five respiratory cases were transfers from other areas.

Hospital and Ambulance Arrangements for Infectious Diseases.

National Health Service Act, 1946. Parts II and III.

Hospital accommodation for infectious disease is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, Manchester, at Beaumont Hospital, Lancaster, a modern and well-equipped building within easy reach of this area under modern transport conditions.

Smallpox cases will be admitted to the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital near Bury.

Ambulance transport for cases of infectious diseases is provided by the Westmorland County Council and is based in Kendal.

Disinfection Arrangements.

Steam disinfection of suitable articles has been available in the Borough of Kendal. In the more scattered parts of the District reliance has to be placed upon disinfection with formaldehyde.

HOUSING.

Under the Housing Acts your Council has a duty to consider the general housing conditions in your district, to ascertain whether any are unfit for human habitation, and to assess the need for further houses. You have powers to deal with unfit houses, powers to provide new houses for all classes, and various powers and duties in the management of your Council's estates. Good housing conditions are an integral part of public health.

Present Housing Position.

There were 6,122 inhabited houses at the end of the year. With an estimated population of 18,310 the average number of persons per house is three, which is not a high figure. There were no cases of legal overcrowding within the strict definition of the Housing Act, which assumes that living rooms are used for sleeping purposes and that sexes can be segregated irrespective of age, health or family relationships.

At the time of the 1951 Census there were 5,150 private households living in 5,058 structurally separate dwellings. By the 1961 Census the preliminary data show a rise to 5,759 private households in 6,064 dwellings. Those figures represent an increase of 11.8 per cent in the number of private households, and an increase of 19.9 per cent in private dwellings. Meanwhile the population rose 6.5 per cent so the decade of the nineteen-fifties was clearly notable for a big spreading out of people to give themselves more elbow room after the cramped

conditions of the war years, and taking the absorption of immigrants in their stride.

The great majority of cottage houses and farm-houses are of considerable age and are stone-built. Many of the older houses suffer from rising dampness due to the absence of damp-proof courses. The sound methods of the original construction have ensured that deterioration of the structure is a very slow process, and some are capable of reconditioning to modern standards.

General Progress of Slum Clearance and Improvements.

Westmorland as a whole has made very encouraging progress in post-war slum clearance despite all the difficulties of the times. Since the campaign was resumed in 1948 well over 900 houses in the County have been dealt with by formal action under the Housing Acts. Most of these will eventually be demolished or converted to trade use, but about 15 per cent of them have been reprieved by their owners undertaking to spend considerable money for comprehensive reconditioning up to modern standards. In addition to those formal actions there have been a very creditable number of informal schemes for the renovation of sub-standard houses, either with the aid of improvement grants or entirely by private enterprise. The aim is to save a house wherever possible, but if it cannot be brought up to an acceptable standard of safety, decency and amenity, the sooner it is swept away the better.

Rural slums may be more picturesque than city slums, escape into the beautiful countryside may be easier, but within the four walls of a house the distinction is not so evident. The natural decay of houses is inevitable, the demand for the decencies of modern amenities is pressing. A policy of constant replacement has always obtained, otherwise we would still be living in mud and wattle huts.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, required your Council to declare their proposals for dealing with sub-standard houses. You resolved to deal with the estimated 250 unfit houses within the ensuing 10 years. The programme was divided into two five-year periods, ending respectively in December 1960 and 1965. The Minister of Housing and Local Government approved those proposals and they are now on deposit for public inspection.

In your own District very good progress has been made in slum clearance, and I feel that we have broken the back of the problem in this area. Bearing in mind that your District have already done 171 slum clearance actions between 1945 and 1955 before the Minister called for the programme. I do not think that we shall find difficulty

in completing your proposals by 1965. In fact, it seems probable that there will be less sub-standard houses to deal with, on account of the very great help offered by financial grants to recondition them.

Closing Orders.

Two closing orders were made during the year. There were 36 closing orders in force at the year end, and included in this figure were 11 orders which have not yet been complied with and are still in occupation.

Undertakings not to use for Human Habitation.

Undertakings not to use for Human Habitation.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.

No formal undertakings were accepted by your Council during the year. At the year end the number of such undertakings in force was 71, and 22 of these houses were still occupied.

Undertakings to Perform Works.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.

Two undertakings were offered during the year and the number outstanding at the year end was 16.

Demolition Orders.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.

No demolition orders were made during the year, and at the year end the number of outstanding orders was 18 of which six related to houses which were still occupied. One house was actually demolished during the year.

Clearance Areas.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 42.

During 1952 I made Official Representations against two areas of sub-standard property in Staveley. One area included the six cottages in Alec Row and the other was composed of two houses in The Square. Your Council decided to proceed by compulsory purchase orders, and, after a Public Enquiry in 1953, the Minister confirmed the order. At the year end none of the houses in Alec Row and one in The Square were still occupied.

In 1955 I made an Official Representation against a small area at Bridge End, Old Hutton, a jumble of decaying property on a site where satisfactory reconditioning would be both difficult and costly. Formal Inquiry was held during 1956 by the Minister of Housing and

Local Government into your Council's clearance order, and the latter was confirmed with modifications to exclude certain premises. At the year end one of the houses at Bridge End was still occupied. It is time this area was properly cleared.

Improvement Grants.

Housing Act, 1957.

If the process of natural decay is not allowed to go too far there are often opportunities for reconditioning to modern standards. The Housing Act, 1957, offers considerable financial aid to owners for reconditioning houses. I hope that full advantage will be taken of these opportunities so that houses will not be unnecessarily lost and the architectural traditions of the district may be maintained.

The administration of this Act has taken up much time but considerable progress has been made.

Up to the end of the year 290 applications had been made for Discretionary Grants: 33 of them were refused, nine withdrawn, 228 completed, and 20 were outstanding. Standard Grant applications totalled 48 of which 19 were completed.

Altogether £56,134 has been paid in those grants over the whole period of their availability up to 31st March, 1961.

Estimated Requirement for New Houses.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 91.

You will remember that your post-war demand was estimated to be about 1,100, made up of about 350 condemned and condemnable houses and about 570 needed for agricultural workers, and for the provision of a house for each family unit.

By the end of 1960, 1,187 houses had been built by the combined effort of your Council and private enterprise, and a further 46 were under construction.

It is not so easy to estimate future requirements because the picture is complicated by overspill from Kendal and by migration. The figures for dormitory use of your district are set out in the commentary on the vital statistics in this report. Furthermore, your immigration figures show how labour follows the houses and scope for expansion is largely in your own hands.

But one need is quite certain at the present time: the need to rehouse the people in your slum clearance programme, the need to rehouse them in the right localities and in houses of the right size. We estimate that some 40 to 50 dwellings are needed as a very

minimum before 1965, and most of those would be the one or two-bedroom type. It would be logical to group them in four or five of your larger villages, near the existing housing estates. Those 40 to 50 rehousing needs are a net figure after making allowance for death, self-help and other solutions. They are ready to be reconciled with your outstanding general needs as you approach the time for planning your next programme of housebuilding. The Minister of Housing and Local Government has repeatedly stressed the duty of slum clearance rehousing without delay.

Housing Building Progress.

Since 1948 your Council have built 725 houses, and another 462 houses have been put up by private enterprise.

Your Council completed four houses and 20 flats during the year. Private enterprise completed 68 houses in the same period and a further 46 were under construction at the year end. Conversions in existing houses produced nine additional units.

Selection of Tenants.

Selection of tenants for Council houses is done by a system which consists of an initial application form renewed every nine months, and then the facts are checked when houses become available in the District required. A sub-committee chooses the tenants with the help of the local Councillors. The system seems to work reasonably satisfactorily.

Housing Management.

Your Council owned 796 occupied houses at the year end, and housing management in the District is under the control of the Chief Public Health Inspector and Building Surveyor, an arrangement which, in my opinion, is most satisfactory; it ensures that unsatisfactorily housed persons, who are either in sub-standard dwellings or grossly overcrowded are given due consideration and not overlooked. The arrangement also permits the technical officer most concerned having control of repairs and ensures that the property is well maintained. About £6,000 was spent on repairs during the year.

During 1958 a special survey was made to see how your Council's houses were actually being used on the larger estates. The result made it startlingly clear that many of the houses were underoccupied. Your Council's policy will swing towards less bedrooms in new houses or flats, so that there will be better chances to reshuffle tenants according to their needs.

A modest start was made in providing direct labour for maintenance. Some of your Council's staff have been engaged on repairs, bricklaying, masonry, plastering and slating. The open spaces on your housing estates are difficult to maintain with the present staff and you may need to provide more help in the future. The rents of your Council houses vary from 11/9d. to 24/6d. per week, exclusive of rates, and the rateable values are between £9 and £26.

The examination of rentals and rates may not seem at first to have much to do with public health, but it does have considerable significance. It is not unknown for persons who have been rehoused from poor quarters into modern Council houses to have to pay their rents and rates from the portion of their income which rightly belongs to the purchase of food. Domestic economy can effect the general standard of the public health almost as much as environmental conditions, and some attempt must be made to maintain a balance between these conflicting factors.

Verminous Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 83-85.

No cases required action during the year.

Nuisances and Notices re Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 91-100.

During the year the following action was taken: 76 preliminary notices were served. In no case was it necessary to seek an Abatement Order from the Court.

Dangerous Buildings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 58.

Action was taken during the year in two cases.

Caravans.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Between three and four dozen applications had been made by the year end for caravan site licences, and were under consideration jointly with the Local Planning Authorities.

There were some other sites scattered throughout your District which will have to be dealt with under this new legislation. Next year will afford an opportunity to control caravans more thoroughly. It should work to the mutual advantage of the caravanners and our local residents.

Tents, Sheds and Moveable Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 268-269.

At the year end there were no licences in force under the Public Health Act for sites which did not include caravans. This type of licence now covers mainly the tented camp sites.

Most of the unlicensed camping sites are in the south-west of your District near the coast, and a few other unlicensed camping sites are scattered throughout the area, but very little nuisance arises from casual campers' improvised sanitary arrangements and refuse disposal. Water is taken from polluted becks at their own risk.

As this District is in or on the fringe of the National Park, it is most desirable that strict but unobtrusive supervision should be exercised over camping sites, to ensure that the natural beauty of the country is not despoiled by the careless few.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supply to your District is derived from many sources. The principal source of public supply is from your Lupton reservoirs, the mains from which extend into 19 parishes in the southern part of your area.

Your Council control and maintain other sources of supply in a further ten parishes. The Thirlmere and Haweswater aqueducts of Manchester Corporation pass through your District and are used for supplying some of the areas along their route.

The principal supply of three parishes and a supplementary supply in one parish are owned by commercial undertakings. About one-fifth of the houses in your District is dependent upon private supplies from wells, adits, springs, stored rain water or small watercourses. No public or organised private supply whatever is available in 12 parishes. Nine of these parishes cannot be economically included in any regionalised water supply scheme.

It must be assumed that the supplies to all the above parishes are adequate. In a number of parishes very few houses are actually supplied from the sources named, but on the whole the general position has shown a steady and commendable improvement. About 97.55 per cent of the houses in your District have a piped supply of some kind.

The quality of the public water supplies is generally good. The laboratory results of examinations and analyses of the ten public supplies are set out in Appendix "A". I have no official knowledge of the quality of the myriad of private supplies, and I suspect that many of them are unsatisfactory in quality and very variable in

quantity. I can do no more than warn the users that they drink it at their own risk, that they should have it tested for purity at regular intervals, and, if in doubt, they should boil it.

Special measures were maintained to safeguard the purity of the public supplies.

The following is a brief review of your Council's public water supplies :

Lupton Supply.

The parishes supplied are Arnside, Beetham, Crosthwaite, Helsington, Heversham, Hincaster, Holme, Hutton Roof, Levens, Lupton, Meathop, Milnthorpe, Natland, Preston Patrick, Preston Richard, Sedgwick, Stainton, Underbarrow and Witherslack.

The supply is upland surface water impounded into two reservoirs. Barkin House reservoir has a capacity of 8 million gallons and a top water level of 630 feet O.D. The catchment area is open fell land. The average rainfall over 20 years was 51 inches.

The other reservoir is at Tarnhouse, with an available capacity of 49 million gallons, and a top water level of 595 feet O.D. The catchment area is open fell land and some arable land. The rainfall is the same as for Barkin House.

These waters are mixed and filtered through Bell's pressure filters, and are chlorinated before distribution into the mains system. The reservoir is used for fishing under your Council's licence. The quality of the treated water is good.

There are latrine and washing facilities at the Lupton filter-house, and improved safety arrangements were made during the year against repetition of the minor accident with chlorine gas.

Staveley Supply.

The parishes are Hugill, Nether Staveley and Over Staveley. The source is spring water from a disused mine-working in the Kentmere valley. The water gravitates to an adit and is collected at 532 feet O.D. The water is untreated and is good in quality. The quantity is more than adequate, but the size of the main limits any great extension of the area to be served.

Kirkby Lonsdale Supply.

The source is from a water-bearing gravel bed at Fleet. The depth of the collecting chambers is about nine feet with a top water level of 330 feet O.D. The gathering ground is not defined but it is estimated to be at least 261 acres, of which your Council own 2.3 acres. The quantity of the supply has been abundant for some 70 years and the

quality has generally been good except for plumbosolvent tendencies. The water passes untreated to the consumers.

Casterton Supply.

The source is from springs of 480 feet O.D. and from surface waters. The quality is indifferent. The surface water component of this supply is undesirable drainage from pasture land and is used only when the yield of the springs fall below the demand. Chlorination was installed in 1952 and has improved the safety of this supply, but the whole system is a poor one and ought to be replaced by a safer and more constant source of supply. Perhaps the Haweswater aqueduct will meet the need.

During dry periods it was found necessary to pump water out of an adjacent beck to augment the supply. Apart from the fact that the watercourse was well paddled with cattle, the fields further upstream had been ploughed. Knowing what dangerous chemicals are nowadays spread on the land, and in spite of chlorination, I have increasing misgivings about the safety of these desperate attempts to supply Casterton with water at all costs. This sort of improvisation ought not to go on. It is high time that the remedy should be tackled in the proper way.

Barbon Supply.

The source is from springs at 450 feet O.D. The quality is intermittently bad, but a chlorination plant was installed during the year to give a welcome improvement. Earlier work was done to pipe in the fell runners near the road, but the supply still seems very vulnerable to pollution on the farm lands. These works can only be a partial remedy for a supply which is intrinsically poor and which ought to be replaced by a safer source. It may be that the new Haweswater aqueduct could solve your Council's difficulties with the Barbon, Casterton and Kearstwick supplies, all of which I regard with misgivings.

Grayrigg Supply.

The source is partly from a small spring and partly from upland surface water from uninhabited fell grazing ground, some 57 acres in extent, none of which is owned by your Council. The water is collected in a small tank with a top water level of 670 feet O.D. and is untreated.

Just at the end of 1950 your Council altered the headworks to ensure that the supply was derived only from the small limestone spring, because fell drainage operations seemed to have aggravated the long-standing trouble of heavy sediment after rains.

After this work the appearance of the water showed great improvement, although it was considerably harder. In 1952, however, it was found that the lead in solution was 0.8 parts per million, which is about eight times the safe level. This seemed to be due to a vein of soluble lead in the limestone source, and in time it might have caused chronic lead poisoning.

The spring was therefore disconnected from the supply until an alternative satisfactory permanent scheme can be evolved. Although of course nobody can drink the water when it is thick with suspended matter after rains, the local people have to manage with it in between times. I do not think it would be very good for visitors to drink, but it is amazing what the human stomach can stand.

An alternative source in the Fellgate area was explored, but rejected in favour of a more comprehensive scheme to supply a wider area from the Haweswater Aqueduct. The replacement of the existing bad supply to Grayrigg village is long overdue, and it ought to be a priority task for the new Water Board if your Council cannot make a start with it before then.

Burneside Supply.

This private commercial supply has its sources in upland surface gathering ground on Potter Fell. The water is chlorinated and the results in recent years have been very satisfactory.

Your Council agreed in principle to take over this supply area and join it to the Staveley mains. Your Engineer has prepared a scheme, but progress is hanging fire rather badly. All desire to do anything has been quenched by the diversion of energy towards building the administrative edifice of the new Water Board.

Garth Row Supply.

This small scheme is upland surface water which was poor in quality. A large storage tank was constructed in 1948. It is proposed to take an alternative supply from the Haweswater aqueduct when available. In the meantime the supply runs so short that your Council often have to resort to the expensive and bothersome expedient of taking water in carts.

Kearstwick.

This is a private supply system from Terrybank Tarn. It is not impressive from the public health aspect, and it would be better replaced by a supply from the Haweswater aqueduct.

General.

Those supplies which show poor or indifferent bacteriological results are in the main due to the upland gathering grounds being grazed by stock, with the consequent manurial contamination of the water after rainfall. The bacterial counts fluctuate widely according to the climatic conditions, and as most of your public waters are untreated the contamination tends to be a nuisance in laboratory control rather than any particular danger to the consumers. Certain sources, however, require constant supervision against possible human pollution.

Modern standards really require you to provide a sterilised water, and it is by those standards you will be judged by the Minister when regrouping comes. I think you would be wise to adopt a policy of progressive sterilisation of all your supplies.

Regrouping Water Undertakings.

1960 saw the culmination of Westmorland's rearguard battle with the Minister of Housing and Local Government. It had long been the Government's policy to encourage voluntary combinations of small water undertakings into larger Water Boards, but the various Westmorland authorities preferred to run their own local systems. Under the threat of compulsory amalgamation they decided that it would be better to be forced into two small boards rather than one large board, and so your Council looks like becoming a member of a southern small group of County Districts.

From a public health point of view I cannot see much increased hope of any dramatic improvements in the public water supplies in the next five years. On the contrary I foresee delays while this regrouping revolution sorts out its own domestic affairs and administration. Only when the new Board has settled down shall we be able to pick up the threads of operational interest in delivering the goods to the consumers.

If any changes were to be forced upon us, I should have much preferred to see reorganisation tackled in a more radical way. This present minor re-grouping phase is an obvious move towards regional control and the future establishment of Water Conservation Areas in the whole of the national interest. It might have been just as easy, if not easier, to anticipate regionalisation by amalgamating with Manchester Corporation Waterworks. Their two huge aqueducts from Thirlmere and Haweswater already pass right across your District, and we already take considerable bulk supplies from them. The replacement of some of our obsolete local sources lies invitingly alongside those aqueducts. Manchester already maintain large depôts

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION.

Year ended 31st December, 1960.

Parish	Houses	Public Supply		Organised Private Supply		Other Private Supply	
		Laid on	Not Laid on	Laid on	Not Laid on	Laid on	Not Laid on
Arnside	553	547	—	—	—	6	—
Barbon	85	66	—	—	—	15	4
Beetham	382	381	—	—	—	—	1
Burton	226	225	—	—	—	1	—
Casterton	74	62	—	—	—	11	1
Crook	131	—	—	—	—	121	10
Crosthwaite	183	87	—	—	—	85	11
Dalton	26	23	—	—	—	3	—
Dillicar	25	—	—	—	—	14	11
Docker	13	—	—	—	—	12	1
Fawcett Forest..	13	—	—	—	—	13	—
Firbank	31	—	—	—	—	25	6
Grayrigg	56	31	—	—	—	20	5
Helsington	79	46	—	—	—	33	—
Heversham	152	151	1	—	—	—	—
Hincaster	42	39	—	—	—	3	—
Holme	222	221	—	—	—	—	1
Hugill	139	98	—	—	—	40	1
Hutton Roof....	56	40	3	—	—	8	5
Kentmere	38	—	—	—	—	34	4
Killington	41	—	—	—	—	38	3
Kirkby Lonsdale	496	441	—	43	—	12	—
Lambrigg	30	1	—	—	—	24	5
Levens	287	273	9	—	—	3	2
Longsleddale....	28	—	—	—	—	28	—
Lupton	55	40	—	—	—	15	—
Mansergh	40	—	—	19	—	18	3
Meathop	44	38	—	6	—	—	—
Middleton	42	—	—	—	—	38	4
Milnthorpe	556	549	6	—	—	1	—
Natland	107	100	—	—	—	7	—
Nether Staveley	231	188	1	—	—	41	1
New Hutton	57	24	—	—	—	33	—
Old Hutton	81	52	—	—	—	26	3
Over Staveley ..	178	156	3	—	—	19	—
Patton	17	—	—	—	—	16	1
Preston Patrick	120	89	—	—	—	31	—
Preston Richard	239	228	—	—	—	11	—
Scalthwaiterigg..	38	—	—	29	—	8	1
Sedgwick	51	43	7	—	—	1	—
Skelsmergh	75	22	—	18	—	34	1
Stainton	103	90	—	—	—	13	—
Strickland Ketel	302	1	—	241	4	38	18
Strickland Roger	81	3	—	58	—	18	2
Underbarrow ..	101	41	—	—	—	55	5
Whinfell	23	—	—	—	—	21	2
Whitwell & Selside	45	10	—	8	—	26	1
Witherslack	128	74	—	—	—	49	5
	6122	4480	30	422	4	1068	118

of material and skilled staff in our area. How logical it might have been to think much further ahead than the nineteen-sixties. It would have helped the public health a lot. Our public health problems transcend national and local politics. I want to see enough safe water delivered into our peoples' houses. The aim is as simple as that.

Proposed Future Water Schemes.

Crook.

An outline scheme for a small public water supply for a group of 35 houses in Crook was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health during 1950, but no real progress was made since and it seems that the scheme is now moribund.

Plantation Bridge.

In 1955 I drew your Council's attention to the deplorable state of many private water supplies in the hamlet. Some houses are served with untreated water from a dirty beck, just below other peoples sewage tanks. I have given local warning of the risks, and supported your Council's request to the Government that a remedial scheme should receive priority in spite of whatever credit squeeze happens to be in force at the moment. Your Council propose to extend the Staveley public water main to Plantation Bridge, and maybe sometime take it further on into the Burneside system. The situation has arisen through haphazard building development, and has progressively deteriorated. The present position is that the dangers persist while financial arguments and doctrinaire contemplation of possible Water Boards drag on. It is a very poor show.

General Distribution.

The Minister requires me to state the number of houses and population in each of your parishes with water laid on and with water available from standpipes.

SEWERAGE.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 14.

Public sewers and 16 disposal works exist in the more populous parts of twelve parishes, and in three other parishes there are systems installed by commercial undertakings. The rest of your District relies upon individual septic tanks, cesspools or drainage into watercourse, or still retains the more primitive practices associated with privies,

privy middens, pails and earth-closets. This position is due to the lack or late installation of the public water supplies in these areas.

Your Council are fully aware of these deficiencies and are planning considerable extensions of the public sewerage system, and are improving, or replacing some of the existing disposal works which have become obsolete or inadequate for present and future requirements. Many areas will still have to await the public water supply before their insanitary conditions can be properly remedied.

Even when the public water supply arrives it will not be economically practicable to install comprehensive sewerage and full treatment sewage disposal plants, and the smaller villages or hamlets can be fairly well served by group septic tanks where the soil is suitable for irrigation with the effluent. Isolated houses must perforce rely upon this method of drainage.

Sewage Disposal Methods and Works.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 15.

Arnside.

This plant consists of a tank on the shore fed by a sewer with a very poor fall, and embarrassed by tidal action. The effluent is discharged into the estuary and is often not of a very high standard. The whole of Morecambe Bay is, however, so grossly polluted with sewage that your contribution, although undesirable, is negligible in quantity. The sludge is pumped up to an old quarry at New Barns, where there are obsolete and inefficient so-called drying-beds. I do not like the Arnside arrangements and I would recommend that alternative arrangements should be adopted for sludge drying and disposal.

Staveley.

This is a modern plant situated near Hundhow on the Back Road to Burneside. It consists of detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, rotary percolating filters, humus tanks, storm water tanks and sludge drying-beds. The effluent passes into the adjacent River Kent and is usually of good quality. I am satisfied that these works are capable of producing good results and are adequate for the anticipated growth of the area.

Kirkby Lonsdale.

These works are situated on the Whittington Road near Robrairie. The design is old-fashioned, and the results appear to be variable. There are detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, and percolating filter

beds from fixed sprinklers, storm water tanks, and sludge drying-beds. The effluent passes into the adjacent River Lune. This plant is decaying and I think it will be inadequate to deal with the new housing development in a few years. The Council prepared plans for the reconstruction of the works, but have not pressed forward with the project. In the meantime it is difficult to do more than patch up an aged plant, and try to placate the Lancashire Rivers Board who are constantly grumbling about the effluent. The place is a rather pathetic sight for the middle of the 20th century.

Milnthorpe.

The new disposal works were brought into use during 1952 and are working well.

Beetham.

The new disposal works were brought into use during 1955 and are working well.

Burton.

A complete new set of sludge beds were constructed during 1956, enabling the sludge effluent to be pumped back for further treatment. This is a great improvement and helps to meet the criticisms of the Lancashire Rivers Board.

Crooklands.

A small scheme was carried out during 1957 to provide a much needed improvement.

Bowston.

The new disposal works were brought into use in 1958 and are working well. A great improvement can be seen in the village.

Casterton.

A scheme for the modernisation of this small works was completed in 1960. It should remedy the pollution into the River Lune.

Natland.

Your Council decided during 1951 to install a sewerage system in Natland and instructed the Engineer to submit a scheme. This was in course of preparation at the year end, but it has slipped down the priority list.

Other Works.

The other sewage disposal works are small installations at:—

Sedgwick	...	Riverside, Sedgwick.
Heversham	...	Marsh Lane, Heversham.
Endmoor	...	Challon Hall, Preston Richard.
Casterton	...	Kirfitt Hall, Casterton.
Holme	...	Mill Lane, Holme.
Levens	...	Three small tank schemes.
Storth	...	One small tank scheme.
Hutton Roof	...	One small tank scheme.
Whassett	...	One small tank scheme.
Mealbank	...	One small private scheme.

Some of these work fairly well, some require improvements and renovation, and some are obsolete.

Cesspool Emptying.

The Council were saved many difficulties by having the cesspool emptying vehicle, with a mechanical pump, to deal with the sewage plants on their housing estates.

If the volume of this work increases further and anything like a full scale service has to be operated, consideration will have to be given in the near future for the provision of a vehicle specifically designed for the purpose. 311 visits were made to cesspools needing attention, many on your own Council housing estates.

Prevalence of Water Closets.

At the time of the 1951 Census your District held 5,150 households, of whom 1,481 (or about 29%) were entirely without a water-closet, and another 214 had to share one. There has been steady improvement, so that there are now water-closets in almost every house in the parishes where there is enough water and where sewers are easily accessible. In the more isolated areas it is more difficult; about 700 houses still use more primitive ways, but in the post-war period the number of houses without a water-closet has dropped from 1,810 to 698. This is a very good achievement.

Improvements achieved during 1960.

Privy-closets and middens abolished and w.c's provided	...	18
Privy-closets and middens abolished and pails provided	...	0
Pail-closets abolished and w.c's provided	... ..	21
New septic tanks installed	... ..	49
Tanks emptied by the Department	... ..	198
Septic tanks abolished	... ..	1

Notices served re Sanitary Accommodation and Drainage.

Insanitary privies and privy-middens ...	...	...	...	...	29
Defective sanitary pails ...	...	...	...	...	17
Insufficient drainage systems ...	...	...	...	...	41

Proposed New Sewerage Schemes.

Levens.

A sewerage scheme was prepared many years ago, but, due to various difficulties, it was not until 1955 that it came to the stage of Inquiry by the Minister. Although approved in principle, permission to start work was withheld on account of national financial restrictions.

Meanwhile Levens was suffering increasing difficulties. The extra load of new houses and the progressive clogging of the ground around the tank caused intermittent nuisance, and we settled down to a race between the cesspool emptying gang and the inhabitants of Levens, with no expense spared. A bigger and better tank was built during 1957, and, after the sewage effluent had flowed onto the road, the tail drain was extended to the lower side. Conditions are certainly a little better, but these are only stopgap measures until a proper disposal plant can be installed.

Better progress was made during 1960 towards the new scheme, and at the year end contracts had been let for an early start in 1961.

Grayrigg.

Your Coucil submitted a scheme to the Minister of Housing and Local Government, and his Inspector held a Local Inquiry during 1959.

The scheme includes the comprehensive sewerage of Grayrigg village and the installation of a small modern disposal works. I welcomed the idea, because there have been periodical public health difficulties with the septic tanks and more primitive practices in the village.

The scheme was approved and work commenced during 1960. It will be completed early in 1961.

Storth and Carr Bank.

Your Coucill decided in 1959 to investigate the proper sewerage of this area. No scheme has yet been adopted. The area needs one.

Small Schemes.

In such a scattered rural area the extension of many township and village systems would be impracticable, and therefore some small schemes will be needed to serve hamlets and small villages when water supplies are installed.

Public Conveniences.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 8s.

Public conveniences are maintained in Arnside, Milnthorpe, Staveley and Kirkby Lonsdale. In all the conveniences constant supervision is required to deal with the public misuse to which they are subjected. It is a curious trend in public morals for toilets to be so defiled with careless excretion, obscene and perverted mural decorations, and so often damaged by wanton destruction of the actual fittings.

Conveniences are needed in all the populous villages, particularly to deal with the increasing motor-coach traffic. The systematic defiling of our village back streets and yards continues mainly because the visitors are offered no alternative. The present time is not opportune for embarking upon any extensive scheme of public lavatories, but I regard their ultimate provision as a much needed public health measure rather than a source of income to your Council. I do not favour turnstiles for ladies' conveniences.

The Staveley convenience was constructed during 1949 and is incorporated in a 'bus shelter and this pattern could be followed to great advantage elsewhere.

There is periodical agitation to secure a public convenience at Sand-side. Your Council is sympathetic to the need, but have not yet found a way to overcome the local difficulties.

The Devil's Bridge at Kirkby Lonsdale presents a seasonal need for the people who cannot be bothered to walk the 600 yards to the public conveniences in Jingling Lane.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 72.

The refuse collection service covers all except the most outlying parishes in your District. In the more urbanised areas of the Kent and Lune valleys there is a weekly service. All pail-closets are also emptied weekly. Most of the remaining areas have a fortnightly collection.

Where regular collections are not economical, it has been possible for the refuse lorries to make an occasional tour along certain defined routes to collect from isolated hamlets and farms, after prior notice to the residents. Not only has this service been much appreciated, but it has reduced the casual indiscriminate dumping of refuse in roadside pits and quarries.

The ability of a large capacity waggon to clear a growing district

has been clearly proved, together with the considerable advantage of dustless loading. The composition of refuse is changing, and it is now a problem of carrying bulk rather than weight.

Refuse Disposal.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 76.

Disposal of refuse is carried out by tipping on three of your Council's sites. Since 1951 there has been a most commendable improvement in the introduction of controlled tipping as a gradual replacement of the crude dumping which was the former practice of your Council. Controlled tipping is difficult here, often there is neither sufficient labour on the sites nor sufficient covering material, with the result that occasional nuisances occur. The natural beauty of the countryside ought not to be desecrated by multiple dumps of ugly human refuse.

The progressive reorganisation and expansion of the refuse collection services is now overtaking the labour available. There is always a plea to extend the areas of collection, but we have reached the stage when only another complete crew with an additional lorry is the answer. The service can be as extensive as people care to pay for: that is your Council's function to assess.

The increased bulk of refuse being received at your Slackhead tip has needed an extra man on the site for two or three days each week.

The standard of other tips has been kept up, but until more labour is available some shortcomings may occur. Fire is a constant risk, and a 700-gallon emergency water tank has been installed at Slackhead.

The more I see of the Kirkby Lonsdale tip the more I am convinced that it never ought to have been put there, and the sooner it is closed the better. Much improvement has been made lately to observe controlled tipping, and this technique is strictly obligatory.

Inspection re Refuse Collection, Accommodation and Disposal.

Inspections and visits re ashplace accommodation complaints, surveys, etc.	184
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Notices served re Refuse Services:—

Number of notices served re accumulations	...	...	8
„ „ defective dustbins	...	...	30
„ „ insanitary ashpits	...	...	2

Salvage of Waste Material.

Salvage is not done because there is no sale for the material.

Street Cleansing.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 77.

In the few areas where street cleansing is undertaken by your Council the streets are well maintained. The County Council undertake the remainder and maintain a similarly high standard.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

General Powers.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Your Council bear most of the statutory responsibility for safeguarding the public from foodborne disease. The main aim is directed towards securing proper and hygienic conditions for the manufacture, preparation and sale of food. The secondary aim is to trace and localise any outbreaks of disease which may occur in spite of preventive measures.

Precautions against Contamination.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 13-15.

Food hygiene is steadily improving throughout your area. Public opinion is well ahead of the law and most traders are aware of the fact. The good food trader does not need official instruction in basic cleanliness or the enforcement of legal minimum standards. He may welcome advice on technical problems, but his aim is how high he can get, not how low he can get away with.

The responsibility for safe food does not rest entirely with the trader as the housewife must play her part as well. Quite a lot of strange things happen to food between the shop counter and the dinner-plate, and the educational campaign has had to be carried into the home. Foodborne diseases, mild dysenteries and attacks of diarrhoea and vomiting are not infrequent in our homes and among our visitors. I am confident that higher standards will reduce these preventable diseases.

Ice-Cream Trade.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.

The following premises were registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:—

Manufacture by hot mix, cold mix, storage and sale ...	2
Manufacture by cold mix, storage and sale	3
Storage and sale only	59

Prepared Meats.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16.

The number of premises on the Register for the preparation of sausages, potted meat, preserved meat and pickled foods was 12.

Registration of Milk Distributors and Dairies which are not Dairy Farms.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1959.

Total number of registered Distributors	...	...	...	14
,, ,, Dairies	...	...	...	3

The retail distribution of milk is both by bottled milk and the old-fashioned loose method. Traders are becoming keener to meet the desire of the enlightened consumer for bottling. Milk-round vehicles are maintained generally in a clean condition.

Pathogenic Organisms in Milk.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

No samples were taken. With the eradication of bovine tuberculosis it seems likely that the next milkborne disease to be tackled will be brucellosis. I believe that many human cases go unrecognised.

No notices were issued under the Milk and Dairies Regulations prohibiting persons from taking part in dairying activities.

Designated Milks.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations.

Your District Council was responsible until 31st September, 1960, for granting dealers' licences and supplementary licences for the sale of designated milks. 21 dealers' licences and 16 supplementary licences were in force.

On 1st October, 1960, the responsibility was transferred to the County Council by the Milk (Special Designation) Regulation, 1960.

Slaughterhouses.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Part IV.

Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

Most of your District relies upon the public abattoir in Kendal, but your Council granted one licence for a private slaughterhouse in Kirkby Lonsdale to serve the Lune Valley areas.

In accordance with Section 3 of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, consultations were held with the meat trade, the farmers, and other interested parties about the future policy for slaughtering in the

District, and how the existing premises might be brought up to the raised standards now required by law. Your Council then submitted during the year their statutory report to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and recommended that 1st July, 1961, should be the date for operation of the regulations concerning the structural requirements. The report was under consideration by the Minister at the year end.

A revision was made during the year in the number of licences issued to slaughtermen.

Condemnation of Other Foods.

Food an Drugs Act, 1955.

The following foodstuffs were condemned during the year:—

Corned Beef	...	...	19 lbs.
Tongue	...	...	41 lbs.
Cooked Ham	...	...	68 lbs.
Gammon Ham	...	...	45 lbs.
Pressed Ham	...	...	8 lbs.
Shoulder Bacon	...	...	14 lbs.
Cooked Pork Loin	...	...	51 lbs.
Stewed Steak	...	...	1-lb. tin
Rice Pudding	...	...	1-lb. tin
Sardines	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ -lb. tin
Cheese	...	...	6 ozs.
Fishcakes	...	...	3 doz.

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

The Minister of Health requires me to describe the current methods for the disposal of condemned food. In this District it is by burial at Slackhead tip.

Condemnation of Meat at the Kirkby Lonsdale Slaughterhouse.
Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The following is a summary of the carcasses inspected and condemned in whole or in part:—

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	374	3	1147	274
Number inspected ..	374	3	1147	274
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i> Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	41	—	10	1
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	10.9%	33.3%	1%	.3%
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i> Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	—	—	2
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	1%	—	—	.7%
<i>Cysticercosis:</i> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	13	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Your Council employs one Chief Public Health Inspector and two additional Inspectors, one of whom is part-time with seven sessions per week. The salary is apportioned between the public health inspection duties and the other duties in a proportion approved by the Minister of Health.

The duties connected with building inspections, housing management and planning legislation have been progressively increasing in recent years.

Summary of Inspections carried out during the year.

Dwelling-houses inspected with a view to Statutory action under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dwelling-houses inspected with a view to informal action under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Number of inspections for this purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
Visits and Inspections re Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	103
General inspections and visits for nuisances (excluding above)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
Visits and inspections re moveable dwellings and camping sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Bakehouses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Ice-cream premises visited and inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Factories and Workshops — visits and inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Inspections re drainage works — existing and new premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	656
Inspections and visits re private water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Inspections re food preparing premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Inspections re licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Inspections re building works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	907
Visits and inspections re temporary buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Inspections re accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Visits and inspections re refuse service	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	184
Inspections re septic tanks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Visits and inspections re sanitary accommodation, privies, privi- middens, pails, w.c's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
Visits to slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	103

Offensive Trades.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 107.

There are no offensive trades in the District.

Factories.

Factories Act, 1937-1959.

There are 161 factories on the Register. 30 inspections were made

and no written notices were served. No references were made to H.M. Inspector and two were received from him. No prosecutions were required.

One outworker was notified to your Council by factory owners, and I have no official knowledge of any cases of default in this respect.

There are no basement bakehouses in the District. One certificate was issued during the year regarding means of escape from factories in case of fire.

It has not been possible in the past to perform these duties in an adequate manner, but it is hoped that next year may bring some improvement. Liaison with H.M. Inspector is very good and there is no reason to believe that factory conditions have suffered unduly by the arrears of work incurred. The register of factories has been completely revised and cross-checking with H.M. Inspector carried out.

H.M. Inspector of Factories has been sent details of your Rural District's administration of the relevant sections of Parts I and VIII of the Factories Act, 1937.

Factory Inspections.

Premises.	Number of Premises.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	28	4	—	—
Factories not included in (1), in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	133	26	—	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	161	30	—	—

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which Defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) . .	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) . .	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) . .	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) . .	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	I	—	I	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective . .	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes . .	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	I	—	I	—
Total	—	2	—	2	—

Shops Act, 1950.

18 shop premises were visited during the year. These duties are not adequately covered due to the prior claim of other work.

Common Lodging Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936. Part IX.

There are no common lodging houses in your District.

Rent Restriction Acts.

No action was taken during the year and no rent book entries were reported to be irregular.

Smoke Abatement.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 101-106.

Clear Air Act, 1956.

No action was required.

Rag Flock Act, 1951.

There is one registration.

Swimming Baths.

There are no contained public swimming baths, but many places on the rivers and tarns and the Kent Estuary are used at the bathers' own risks.

Public Mortuary and Post-mortem Rooms.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 198.

Your Council do not provide any public mortuaries or post-mortem rooms in the Rural District. Adequate facilities are available at the Westmorland County Hospital in Kendal by arrangement.

National Assistance Act, 1946. Section 47.

It was not necessary during the year to deal with any cases requiring removal but three were under observation.

Such cases are extremely distressing to deal with and the course of compulsory removal is reserved to meet the emergencies of a last resort when all other methods of help have failed. Sometimes it is very hard to decide what is really in the best interests of the patient.

Laboratory Service.

National Health Service Act, 1946. Section 17.

The Laboratory attached to Westmorland County Hospital in Kendal provided many of the necessary examinations of material obtained by the Department. This laboratory has given extremely valuable service to the southern part of the County.

Most of the public health investigations are in process of being transferred to the Public Health Laboratory Services at Preston and Carlisle, to relieve the burden on the hospital laboratories.

Byelaws.

Byelaws on public health matters are in force for :—

- Buildings.
- New Streets.
- Drainage of existing buildings.
- Slaughterhouses.
- Tents, Vans and Sheds.
- Food handling.

New Legislation.

Authorised Officers (Meat Inspection) Regulations, 1960, became operative 12th August, 1960.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, became operative 29th August, 1960.

The Caravan Sites (Licence Application) Order, 1960, became operative 29th August, 1960.

(Stillbirth Registration) Population (Statistics) Act, 1960, became operative 1st October, 1960.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulation, 1960, became operative 1st October, 1960.

Meat (Staining and Sterilising) Regulations, 1960, became operative 1st November, 1960.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960, became operative 27th November, 1960.

APPENDIX "A". **Laboratory Examination of Public Water Supplies.**

Nature of Test.	Stand- dards Max.	Barbon	Burne- side	Caster- ton	Garth Row	Gray- rigg	Kirkby Lonsdale	Lupton Raw	Lupton Treated	Staveley	Garnett Bridge
Pr. Coli count 37° Faecal coli/strep	3-10 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Character	—	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Yellow tinged	Clear	Yellow tinged	Clear	Clear	Clear
Reaction pH.	—	6.5	7.0 Less than	7.0	7.0	7.0 Less than	6.5	6.5	7.5	7.5	8.4
Ammonical N.	.041	.02	.02	.02	.02	.02	.02	.05	.02	less than .02	.045
Albuminoid N.	.066	.02	.05	.03	.02	.15	.025	.65	.05	less than .02	.075
Total Solids.	1000	81	32	72	46	58	112	98	59	94	84
Hard- ness	300	45.5	16.5	38	42.5	23	72	34	39.5	83.5	14
Carbonate	—	5	0	3.5	2.0	3	32.5	2	.5	62.0	0
Non-Carb.	—	40.5	16.5	34.5	40.5	20	39.5	32	39	21.5	14
Chlorides	30	9	7	10	4	5	12	9	10	6.5	6
Nitrates	1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nitrites	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
O ₂ Absorbed	1.0	.21	.42	.15	.2	6.2	.10	4.4	1.10	.06	1.06
Heavy Metals	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Nil
Rainfall, 24 hours	—	Slight	Nil	Slight	Nil	Nil	Slight	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Date Sampled	—	25/4/60	19/4/60	25/4/60	11/4/60	11/4/60	28/4/60	19/4/60	19/4/60	19/4/60	8/12/53
Laboratory	—	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle

Chemical analyses are expressed in parts per million.

